

## NEW BOOKS.

## Mr. J. A. Mitchell's Romance.

There is poetry and fancy in the beginning of Mr. John Ames Mitchell's tale, "Pandora's Box" (Frederick A. Stokes Company), with a lightness of touch that keeps the reader amused at the discussions over the differing views regarding the relations of the sexes in America and England. The author prefers to invert the usual international alliances by making the lover an American and the girl a British maiden of high degree. The man is American enough, of the exaggerated type that should impress foreigners, but the young woman, in spite of her noble lineage and bringing up, is as unmistakably American as he is. So long as she is charming, however, the reader will not complain.

In the endeavor to convey the impression of the mysterious, superhuman influence of surroundings Mr. Mitchell makes excessive use of coincidences, which is unfortunate. The reader may be touched by the memories of Anne Boleyn, for she belongs to the past, the circumstances of the abuse of light, however, are such as call for little sympathy and show the modern lack of concern for the seventh commandment. The repetition of the scene is pretty brutal, and the bad taste of what Mr. Mitchell apparently regards as poetic justice is incomprehensible in him. The commonplace melodrama of the ending jars with the lightness of the beginning, and the whole point of the story disappears when the hero is made a rich man and owner of the castle. The reader and the heroine alike must feel cheated when her struggles with herself and her prejudices, which have kept them busy throughout the book, turn out to be purposeless.

## A South Sea Rover in New England.

In spite of many sudden jerks in time and place the reader will follow with interest the struggle against mysterious powers of the hero of Mr. Lloyd Osbourne's "A Person of Some Importance" (The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Indianapolis). It is a hard story, from the time the young man is expelled from Annapolis till at the end he finds he has been playing into the hands of his opponents. That a mysterious but wealthy foreigner should establish a home in the early of the South Seas should not astonish readers of romance; they will be more surprised that with his skill in seamanship the hero should lose the vessel presented to him by that gentleman. He must be involved in trouble, however, and Mr. Osbourne is not particular about the means; he must fall in love too, and the author wastes just as little time over that matter, thus prejudicing the reader somewhat against the beautiful but recklessly impressionable heroine.

The main part of the story tells of the curious efforts of the returned waif from the Pacific to earn his livelihood in his native New England village. He is thwarted whenever he should succeed by the machinations of some mysterious power, because he has refused to reveal the hiding place of his original benefactor. When at last he elopes with his lady love and sails for that haven of rest, he discovers that he has been tracked all the while. Some blindness to the ridiculous leads Mr. Osbourne to make the Emperor of Austria take a voyage to the Pacific, but perhaps his preposterous explanation will satisfy some of his readers. His conclusion seems tame. Mr. Osbourne's kind regard for the colored man is noticeable. The hero's chief helper in his troubles is an old negro, and the black cadet, whose hazing was the cause of his removal from the Naval Academy, acts in a very manly fashion.

## Historical.

No State in the Union can offer a more interesting history than the one admitted latest, as is shown in the first volume of Mr. Ralph Emerson Twitchell's "The Leading Facts of New Mexican History" (The Torch Press, Cedar Rapids, Iowa). The greater part of the book deals with events earlier than the settlement at Jamestown or the landing of the Pilgrims. The explorations of the past generation enable the author to give a clear and definite account of the early inhabitants and civilization and to establish what is historical and what fantastic in the early narratives. Next follow the Spanish explorations, Cabeza de Vaca, Fray Marcos and Cibola, Coronado and the missionaries, with the conquest of New Mexico by Cortez. The years of conflict with the Pueblo Indians and of Spanish rule are summarized more briefly. The second volume will contain the history of New Mexico under Mexican rule, of the fight for Texas and of the Territory since it has become subject to the United States. The author has mastered his subject thoroughly and presents it in an attractive and readable form without sacrificing scientific accuracy. The book is a fine specimen of typography and is illustrated with many pictures and with excellent maps.

In "The Story Life of Washington," in two volumes (The John C. Winston Company, Philadelphia), Mr. Wayne Whipple tries to do for the Father of his Country what he has done already for Abraham Lincoln. He has put together in chronological sequence all the stories that have been told about Washington, true and false, and has used the sources, such as Washington's diaries, where he could. He gives the cherry tree story, for instance, just as it stands in Parson Weems's book. In an age when it is the fashion for historians to eliminate from text books all that is legendary or personal the value of a book of this kind is very great. One fault to be found with it, perhaps, is that the author quotes too much from recent writers of history. This enables him to bridge over periods that are of comparatively little importance or for which early authority is lacking, but it brings in a factor that is foreign to his purpose.

An extremely interesting and important descriptive book, Mr. George Wharton James's "The Wonders of the California Desert," is now republished in a single volume by Little, Brown and Company. This new and cheaper edition makes the book more accessible, but it is to be regretted that it is without a supplementary chapter or notes, telling of the changes in the last seven years. While the greater part of the book deals with permanent features, the author does treat of the irrigation experiments, and the events of recent occurrence could have been supplied easily. As it is the book is a brilliant description of a strange and interesting region.

Making use of some old diaries and papers, Mr. John A. Stoughton in "Corner Stone of Colonial Connecticut" (Little, Brown and Company) writes some entertaining and authoritative tales about the Connecticut towns of Windsor, Hartford and Wethersfield and the cultivation of tobacco. He digresses, after the manner of antiquarians, into

anecdotes of local worthies, into bits of Connecticut and Colonial history and into information about tobacco at all times, but he is always interesting, and so are the documents he quotes or reproduces.

## Some Fall Fictions.

A pretty story that will please admirers of her books is Myrtle Reed's "A Weaver of Dreams" (G. P. Putnam's Sons). It turns on the point that there is a soul mate for everybody and but one, and that some time, in this life or the next, the two will meet, an idea that will meet with favor from youth. In this book it is exemplified by two cases; that of two cripples, who recognized each other in the railroad accident that disabled them and who meet after many years of cruelly needless separation, and that of a young man about to be married who finds and knows his affinity to another girl just before the wedding. The girl who is set aside is the heroine; she has been admirably, and the reader is consoled by the thought that her love for the young man may have been a mistake and the right man may yet come to her. She is a very charming girl, and the elderly lovers are delightful. The other girl is also charming at the beginning, but shows signs of dullness as the story goes on. The young man naturally is placed in an awkward position. The various dresses worn by the ladies are described attractively; so is the furniture of the houses. There is much quotation in support of the author's theme. The kindly village couple, which talks in dialect, is perhaps a third instance of the theory. The story is written pleasantly and carefully and is the best work of this author that we have seen.

Unusual originality marks Mr. Hayden Carruth's "Track's End" (Harpers), which may be intended for youth, as the hero and narrator is a young fellow. He is left alone by a succession of plausible accidents in a frontier settlement with winter coming on. He relates his adventures through the winter in a humorous tone, fights off wolves, Indians and outlaws, and shows remarkable ingenuity. The author through it all manages to convey the impression of terror very effectively. It is an extremely good piece of work.

An old fashioned, swashbuckling tale of adventure, telling of the hunt of the early Spanish explorers for Eldorado, has been written by Mr. R. W. Fenn in "The Hidden Empire" (Dodd, Mead and Company). There is plenty of excitement, plenty of dastardly villainy for the hero to encounter, and plenty of slaughter of unfortunate South American natives. The author adopts the somewhat stilted style that goes with such stories; it enables him to supply much proverbial philosophy and to disguise in a manner the barbarous actions of the conquerors. There must be a love story in every romance, but it is subordinate here to deeds of arms; this is a pity, for both the little Spanish lady and the Indian girl are more interesting than the men.

A dozen more stories of Mr. J. J. Bell's amiable house painter and paperhanger will be found in "The Indications of Master Redhorn" (Fleming H. Revell Company). It is perhaps not the best book to introduce Mr. Bell's mild humor, for the sketches are very slight, but those who like him will enjoy the stories. They are as natural and true to life as the previous sketches, the people are the same, and so is the dialect.

The poet and the preacher combine in producing Dr. Henry van Dyke's short story "The Sad Shepherd" (Charles Scribner's Sons). It is a mingling of the parable of the prodigal son with the story of the Christ child and recollections of the author's travels in Palestine, pretty and sentimental.

A Scandinavian analysis of a hysterical woman, expressed with the "frankness" that some women see fit to use when dealing with matters better left unspoken, naturally arouses the admiration of Mr. Marcel Prevost, author of "Les Demi-Vierges," for "Karin Michaelson" (The Dangerous Age) (John Lane Company). The lady who reveals her inmost secrets has reached the age of forty. Having discovered her affinity in an architect younger than herself, she divorces the husband with whom she has lived comfortably for twenty odd years and retires to a lonely estate; she has too much shrewdness to take up with the man she thinks she loves. There she searches her own soul and expresses her views on many matters relating to the sexes, incidentally giving away the secrets of several of her women friends. She finds a kindred soul in her waiting maid. After a prolonged seclusion her senses overpower her; she calls to her lover and finds that he no longer cares for her; she calls to her husband and discovers that he is preparing to marry again. We regret the trouble she has brought on herself and sympathize with her reluctance to take again her maiden name, Elizabeth Bugge. Mr. Prevost regards this as "the most disquieting confession that has ever been written."

Early among the holiday books comes an edition of Charles Dickens's "A Christmas Carol" (Thomas Y. Crowell Company) with a baker's dozen of colored illustrations by Ethel F. Everett, an English production. Of all Dickens's stories the "Christmas Carol" rings truest and is a welcome present in any form. The pictures are pretty, but the artist has carried out a peculiar idea in depicting the things that Scrooge sees in his wanderings as shadowy. That makes most of the pictures rather indistinct.

A new illustrated library of classics, also of British manufacture, the "Burlington," is published by Little, Brown and Company; each book has two dozen pictures in color, pretty in a conventional way. The volumes that have come to us are Mrs. Gaskell's "Cranford," illustrated by Evelyn Paul; Goldsmith's "The Vicar of Wakefield," illustrated by Margaret Jameson; Lamb's "The Essays of Elia," illustrated by Sybil Tawse, all more or less reminiscent of Kate Greenaway and Hugh Thompson; Dickens's "A Tale of Two Cities," illustrated by Sep E. Scott, and "The Imitation of Christ," with reproductions of old masters in gilt mats. Any one of these volumes will make a pretty holiday present.

Another way out for the middle aged man who is deprived of employment is suggested by "A Living Without a Boss" (Harpers), namely, a return to the land. The author asserts that he was a capable reporter who was discharged after many years of faithful service because he was too old. He determined to try something else and rented a house in the country with some land. This he proceeded to develop, and on it he became prosperous. He was helped by kind neighbors, but he does not stoop to details as to how he made his place pay. He makes many suggestions as to the employment any man may find in rural communities who is not afraid to work with his hands. Probably some city men can adapt them-

selves to country life and after they have gained their experience may make a living from it. This book supplies exhortation enough, but little practical help; it leaves the impression of being largely theory, with little real experience to back it.

## Other Books.

The lectures delivered by Mr. Kenyon Cox to the art students of Chicago are collected in a volume entitled "The Classic Point of View" (Charles Scribner's Sons). Under that head in his first lecture Mr. Cox explained the differences between the several schools of art. Following on this came talks on the subject in art, on design, drawing, light, shade and color and on technique. In all the lectures he enlivened his didactic information with offhand criticism of the old masters and with illustrations from living painters. The book is illustrated.

To "The Young Farmer's Practical Library," published by the Sturgis and Walton Company, two new volumes have been added. "Health on the Farm," by H. F. Harris, deals with hygiene and sanitation, subjects about which, judging from the number of handbooks published, much alarm is felt for farmers. The principles expounded, however, are the same for them as for other people. We note Mr. Harris's remarks about drink. He prefers whiskey and spirits to beer and wine, acknowledging that their bad reputation arises from the fact that they are preferred usually by drunkards. "When taken in moderation, however, they are much less prone to produce indigestion than wines or malt liquors, and where one is determined to drink they should unquestionably receive the preference." The author, however, does not advocate their use. The other volume, "Cooperation Among Farmers," by John Lee Coulter, Ph. D., not only urges the farmers to join their forces and explains the benefits and methods of doing this but describes the many instances where the system is working at present.

The leading article in "The American Jewish Yearbook for 1912," which is from September 23, 1911, to September 11, 1912 (The Jewish Publication Society of America, Philadelphia), is a full statement of the facts in regard to the passport question, which is especially acute in the case of Russians who have become American citizens. The volume contains the usual interesting information regarding persons and institutions and is edited this year by Mr. Herbert Friedland.

Though there were eight sessions of the first Universal Races Congress held in London last July the "Papers on Interracial Problems," which Mr. G. Spiller edits (P. S. King and Sons, Ginn and Company, Boston), are contained in a single volume of moderate size. The newspapers gave prominence to the discussions on the negroes and the Jews, but the congress dealt with all cases where races come in conflict and with many general questions besides. Dr. Wu Ting-fang, for instance, had a paper on China, and Japan, Hungary and Turkey were discussed.

A collection of the forms used on important occasions such as marriages, funerals and so on, with the appropriate Scripture selections, has been made by Dr. David G. Wylie and is published in a convenient little volume that will not be noticed in the pocket, entitled, "The Minister's Companion," by Thomas Nelson and Sons, New York. The services are such as are common to all the evangelical denominations.

## Books Received.

"The Life of Napoleon," Arthur Hassall, (Little, Brown and Company).  
"Voice of the National Development," Herbert Jennings, (George Allen and Company, Macmillans).  
"The Gay King," Dorothy Senior, (Brentano's).  
"The Romance of the Oxford Colleges," Francis Gribble, (Little, Brown and Company).  
"A Woman of the Revolution," Thérèse de Mérocourt, Frank Hamel, (Bregans).  
"Wages in the United States, 1880-1910," Scott Nearing, Ph. D., Macmillans.  
"The Presidential Campaign of 1907," Emerson David Fite, Ph. D., Macmillans.  
"The Quakers in the American Colonies," Rufus M. Jones, D. Litt., (Stony Brook Press).  
"John Richard Hale," (Little, Brown and Company).  
"Memories of the White House," Col. W. H. Crook, edited by Henry Hood, (Little, Brown and Company).  
"The Foreign Doctor," Robert E. Speer, (Fleming H. Revell Company).  
"The Conflict," David Graham Phillips, (Appleton).  
"Dividing Waters," I. A. R. Wylie, (The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Philadelphia).  
"The Man Who Could Not Lose," Richard Harding Davis, (Charles Scribner's Sons).  
"Smith," W. Somerset Maugham and David Gray, (Duffield and Company).  
"Old Man Greenback and His Friends," David A. Curtis, (Duffield and Company).  
"Emerson's Wife," Florence Finch Kelly, (A. C. McClurg and Company, Chicago).  
"Dr. David," Marjorie Benton Cooke, (A. C. McClurg and Company).  
"Scouting for Light Horse Harry," John Preston True, (Little, Brown and Company).  
"Jackson and His Henley Friends," Frank E. Channon, (Little, Brown and Company).  
"An Historical Account of," George Fitch, (Little, Brown and Company).  
"Billy: His Summer Awakening," Charles Keen Taylor, (Little, Brown and Company).  
"The Book of Courage," W. J. Dawson, (Fleming H. Revell Company).  
"A Fascinated Child," Basil Matthews, (Fleming H. Revell Company).  
"The Coming of Evolution," J. W. Judd, (G. P. Putnam's Sons).  
"Hereditary in the Light of Recent Research," L. Doncaster, (G. P. Putnam's Sons).  
"The English Puritans," John Brown, D. D. (G. P. Putnam's Sons).  
"The Idea of God in Early Religions," F. B. Jevons, (G. P. Putnam's Sons).  
"Plant-Animals," F. W. Keeble, (G. P. Putnam's Sons).  
"Cash and Credit," D. A. Barker, (G. P. Putnam's Sons).  
"The Natural History of Coal," E. A. Newell Arber, (G. P. Putnam's Sons).  
"The Early Religious Poetry of the Hebrews," E. A. Jevons, D. D., (G. P. Putnam's Sons).  
"The History of the English Bible," John Brown, D. D., (G. P. Putnam's Sons).  
"Plant-Life on Land," Prof. F. O. Bower, (G. P. Putnam's Sons).  
"An Historical Account of the Rise and Development of Presbyterianism in Scotland," Lord Balfour of Burleigh, (G. P. Putnam's Sons).  
"English Dialects from the Eighth Century to the Present Day," W. W. Skeat, (G. P. Putnam's Sons).  
"The Administration of Justice in Criminal Matters," G. Glover Alexander, (G. P. Putnam's Sons).  
"Night Land in Eight Weeks," Marjorie Pen-

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"Electricity in Locomotion," A. G. White, (G. P. Putnam's Sons).  
"Building a Working Church," Samuel Charles Black, D. D., (Fleming H. Revell Company).  
"The Biocenos," Denton J. Snider, (Sigma Publishing Company, St. Louis).  
"The Hero of Heroes," Robert F. Horton, D. D., (Fleming H. Revell Company).  
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## Woodrow Wilson as a Boy.

Gov. Woodrow Wilson has all his life regarded his scholastic career as preparation for political activity, according to William Bayard Hale, who in the *World's Work* for October begins a "Biography of Woodrow Wilson." Gov. Wilson was born at Staunton, Va., in 1856, and his first great memory is of swinging on his front gate and hearing an excited man cry, "Lincoln is elected, and there'll be war!" One of his peculiarities at that time was to run whenever he had the opportunity. Later he slowed down, and when he played baseball he Davidson College team he had the pleasure of hearing the captain say: "Wilson, you'd make a dandy player if you weren't so lazy."

One of the instructors at this same college once asked him, "What is calves' meat when served at the table?" "Mutton," was the hasty reply, and Wilson was "Monsieur Mouton" for the rest of the year.

## Victor Hugo's Paris House.

From the *London Globe*.  
The house of Victor Hugo in the Rue Notre Dame des Champs, where he lived from 1827 to 1830, is about to be demolished. On the ground an up to date building of six stories is to be erected, but all the modern accessories which are included in the plan will never bring back the charm of the old house surrounded by a beautiful garden, where many notable gatherings took place on fine summer nights.

Hugo had removed here on account of his young family, and here the children found their "hearts" delighted. He himself wrote his last ballades, "Cromwell and His Manifesto," "Les Orientales," a part of "Feuilles d'Alphonse," "Marion de Lorme," and "Hernani."

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